

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 020942Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2416

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 3890

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, CH

SUBJECT: PRC RECEPTION OF ROMUALDEZ AND PHIL BASKETBALL TEAM

REF: MANILA 3796 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS GAVE ME RATHER DETAILED REPORT ON AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ' VISIT TO PEKING DURING DISCUSSION OTHER MATTERS APRIL 2. HE CHARACTERIZED CHINESE ATTITUDE, AS DISPLAYED BY CHOU EN-LAI, AS "SURPRISINGLY EAGER" TO MOVE TOWARDS FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PHILIPPINES.

2. HE SAID CHOU HAD AGREED TO TRIP TO PEKING BY MRS. MARCOS EARLY THIS SUMMER. SHE WOULD BE HOSTED BY "CULTURAL GROUP" RATHER THAN BY CHINESE GOVERNMENT, IN VIEW ABSENCE OFFICIAL RELATIONS. WHEN ASKED AT WHAT LEVEL SHE WOULD BE RECEIVED, CHOU SLID OFF QUESTION BY REFERRING TO "STATUS OF WOMEN" IN CHINA.

3. ROMUALDEZ, UNDER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS, ASKED CHOU'S VIEWS ABOUT U.S. MILITARY BASES IN SUCH PLACES AS JAPAN,

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KOREA, THAILAND, AND PHILIPPINES. CHOU ANSWERED THAT "THEY

SERVE A PURPOSE, BUT THEY SHOULD GO." MARCOS INTERPRETED THIS AS "YANKEE GO HOME, BUT NOT TOO FAST."

4. ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, CHOU MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WOULD INVOLVE FORMAL BREAK WITH TAIPEI. CHOU SAID THE PROBLEM OF TAIPEI WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME IN ANY EVENT, "AND TIME IS ON OUR SIDE." ALTHOUGH ROMUALDEZ MADE SOME CONTINGENT REFERENCE TO STATUS OF CHINESE NATIONALS IN PHILIPPINES, SOME 500,000 OF WHOM CARRY GRC PASSPORTS, SUBJECT WAS NOT RPT NOT PURSUED.

5. CHOU SAID HE WOULD SEND RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL WITH CHINESE BASKETBALL TEAM SCHEDULED TO VISIT PHILIPPINES IN MAY. HE HOPED MARCOS COULD CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH THIS UNNAMED OFFICIAL AT THAT TIME.

6. MARCOS THEN ASKED WHETHER U.S. HAD ANY PLANS TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH TAIPEI AND MOVE TOWARDS FORMAL RECOGNITION OF PEKING. I DESCRIBED OUR GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN TERMS USED BY SECRETARY AFTER HIS LAST TRIP TO PEKING AND SAID I KNEW OF NO RPT NO PRESSURES FOR CHANGE.

7. MARCOS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT CATEGORIC INSISTENCE OF CHOU ON BREAK WITH TAIPEI. MOST DISTURBING FEATURE WOULD BE NATIONALITY STATUS OF CHINESE MINORITY IN PHILIPPINES. HE SAID HE WOULD WATCH CLOSELY MANNER IN WHICH MALAYSIA HANDLES THIS PROBLEM IN ITS CONTACTS WITH PEKING. IN MEANTIME, HE POINTED OUT THAT PRC AND PHILS CONTINUE TO HAVE USEFUL CONTACTS AT UN.

8. COMMENT: MARCOS IS CLEARLY SEEKING SOME U.S. REACTION TO PEKING MOVES. IT APPEARS HE WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPIER WITH A SOMEWHAT LESS ARDENT PROPOSAL FROM CHOU, SINCE HE IS NOT RPT NOT FULLY PREPARED TO FACE UP TO CONSEQUENCES OF BREAK WITH TAIPEI AND, ESPECIALLY, PROBLEM OF OVERSEAS CHINESE. ON OTHER HAND, HE DOES NOT RPT NOT WISH TO BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY ANY SUDDEN U.S. MOVES TOWARDS FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEKING. I WOULD WELCOME ANY VIEWS WHICH DEPT. WISHES ME TO PASS TO MARCOS. SULLIVAN

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